

**STEWART, Isaac Mitton**, Bishop of Draper, Salt Lake county, Utah, from 1856 to 1890, was the son of Bickley Stewart and Alice Hopkins and was born at Burlington, New Jersey, March 14, 1815. He was of Scotch-Irish descent and his father was a soldier of the Revolution under George Washington. His father died when Isaac was but a lad, and the family moved to Illinois, where Isaac (then a young man) became acquainted with Joseph Smith's mission and embraced the gospel. In 1843 he married Matilda



Jane Downs. He shared the early persecutions of the Saints, and was on guard near Carthage when the Prophet Joseph and Patriarch Hyrum were murdered. Being driven with the Saints from Illinois, he moved to Kaneshville, Iowa, where he remained until the spring of 1852, when he crossed the plains in a company of which he

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was appointed captain. \*On reaching the Valley he located at what was then called South Willow-Creek, now Draper, Salt Lake county. In October, 1856, he was set apart to act as Bishop of Draper Ward, in which capacity he served faithfully until his death, which occurred at Draper March 15, 1890. In 1856 he married Elizabeth White and Emma Lloyd, with whom he had a large family, being the father of twenty children and having eighty grandchildren. Thirteen of his children are now living. They are: James Z. Stewart of Logan; Isaac J. Stewart of Richfield; Joshua B. Stewart, William M. Stewart, Samuel W. Stewart, Charles B. Stewart, Barnard J. Stewart, all of Salt Lake City; Mary Ann Ballantyne, Logan; Alice C. Stringfellow, Draper; Elizabeth Fife, Ogden; Eliza J. Fife, Salt Lake City; Luella E. Lindsay, Montpelier, Idaho, and Nettie P. Stewart, Salt Lake City. Bishop Stewart served three successive terms (nine years) as county selectman of Salt Lake county, and was prominently associated with Judge Elias Smith, Bishop Reuben Miller, Jesse W. Fox and Bishop Archibald Gardner, in the construction of the various canals taken from the Jordan river in the southern part of Salt Lake county. He was strong and energetic in mind and body and had a progressive disposition, always taking an active interest in education. It was largely through his influence that Dr. John R. Park was employed and retained in educational work in Utah. Bishop Stewart was a typical example of a sturdy pioneer, honest and upright in every particular. His life and interests were centered in his religious faith.

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Lauritz was the father of fifteen children. He died June 16, 1924.  
—Zelma S. Thompson and Rayola Barnes

Isaac Mitton Stewart, son of Beakley Stewart and Alice Hopkins Stewart, was born March 14, 1815, in Burlington, New Jersey. His father died when young Isaac was six years old, and after his mother's remarriage the home was not a happy one, so at the age of eight, Isaac left home to make his way alone in the world. Working for various farmers, he became interested in farming, an occupation he followed all his life.



Salt Lake County—  
Isaac Mitton Stewart Home

When he was fifteen years old he went to Illinois and at Nauvoo he became acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum. Inspired by these men and the religion they promoted, he joined the Church. In 1843 he married Matilda Jane Downs, a beautiful girl who had also accepted the gospel. In 1844 they were blessed with a little son whom they named James Zebulon Stewart.

When the Mormons emigrated to Utah, Isaac was made captain of his company. Matilda drove the ox team while her husband looked after the group for which he was responsible. Their son James, then a boy of seven, walked most of the way, driving seven head of sheep.

Upon their arrival in Utah, they settled in South Willow Creek. Here he built a one-room adobe house roofed with dirt. He secured a small tract of land and attempted farming, but insufficient irrigation water and the cricket menace made food very scarce. Fish caught in Utah Lake and the Provo River was their main food for many months.

Isaac Stewart, a very religious man, became Draper's first ordained bishop, serving in this capacity for thirty-nine years. He also took an active part in public and community affairs.

The large sixteen-room brick house which he later built in Draper was quite a mansion in those days. He and his three wives, Matilda Jane Downs, Elizabeth White and Emma Baynum Lloyd, and their twenty children lived happily there. He was a good provider. In the fall of the year a band of fifty or more Indians would come from the Uintah Basin, pitch their tents on his land, and live there for weeks, while he provided them with food. The Stewart boys particularly enjoyed those visits, as they

played at archery with the Indian boys, and became expert archers.

Isaac Mitton Stewart died March 15, 1890, at Draper, Utah.  
—June Stewart Spackman and Rayola Barnes